

1(Amended). Apparatus for indicating the intensity of brake pressure application in a vehicle having an electrical system and a brake light and a brake pedal comprising in combination:

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means for measuring the intensity of brake pressure applied to the brake pedal [;]
, including a brake hose and a strain gauge sensor coupled to the brake hose for sensing expansion of the brake hose in response to the intensity of brake pressure;

means for providing an output signal in the electrical system in response to the means for measuring the intensity of brake pressure; and

a plurality of lights sequentially illuminated in response to the output signal.

Please cancel claims 2 and 3.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims over the cited references, including Rakow, Gilmore, and Eckert et al, is duly noted. In response thereto, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the specific structural limitations of claim 3. Claims 2 and 3 have then been canceled.

The broad concept of sequential lights responding to increased brake pressure, as the Examiner indicates, is shown in the Rakow patent. However, the specific apparatus

for accomplishing the sequential illumination base on pressure of the brake pedal as structurally set forth in claim 3 is neither suggested nor taught by the art of record. In the rejection of claim 3, the Examiner cites the Eckert et al patent as utilizing a strain gauge. However, the structural elements involved in the apparatus of the Eckert et al patent are different from the structural elements originally set forth in claim 3 and now included in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, defines over the art of record and is accordingly allowable. Claims 4, 5, and 6 are all dependent from claim 1, and it is accordingly submitted that they are likewise allowable. Thus, it is believed that all of the claim remaining in the application are allowable.

With respect to the Eckert et al patent, it is noted that a strain gauge is used as an input device rather than an output device. That is, the strain gauge in the Eckert et al apparatus is used in conjunction with a leaf spring, and the output of the strain gauge is then used to provide an electrical output signal in accordance with the deflection of the strain gauge. The output signal from the strain gauge is then used to apply brake pressure. In the apparatus of the present invention, the strain gauge is applied to a hydraulic brake hose for sensing the output pressure of the brake application. This structural difference is neither suggested nor taught by any of the references of record. It accordingly follows that the structural limitations now included in claim 1 define over the references of record and are allowable.

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Claim 1 specifically provides that the strain gauge sensor is coupled to a brake hose for sensing expansion of the brake hose in response to the intensity of the brake pressure. This structural limitation is neither suggested nor taught by any of the references of record. This structural difference, as indicated above, is different from the teachings found in the Eckert et al patent.

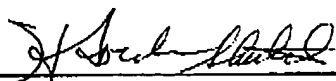
The other reference applied by the Examiner, the Gilmore patent, is a secondary reference used in the rejection of claim 2 for the showing of the showing of the potentiometer connected to a brake pedal. Since claim 2 has been canceled, it is submitted that the Gilmore patent is no longer pertinent to the claimed invention.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and claims 4, 5, and 6 are allowable and the application accordingly is in condition for allowance. An indication of such allowance is respectfully urged.

If the Examiner would prefer language other than that employed, it is requested that the undersigned Attorney of Record be called in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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On 4-12-2000

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4-12-2000
Date

TOTAL P.007